

News from: **Community & Economic
Development Agency**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**City of Oakland Launches Parklet Pilot Program,
Seeks Proposals from Community**

Oakland, CA – The City of Oakland has issued a Notice of Parklet Availability (NPA) for a pilot program to bring temporary parklets to Oakland’s various commercial corridors. Parklets are the latest trend to improve an area’s pedestrian friendliness by creating publicly accessible spaces to sit and interact. The pilot program will result in up to eight parklets being selected from all complete submissions received by the October 24th deadline. The release of the NPA comes less than two weeks after PARK(ing) Day was celebrated in more than 180 cities worldwide and saw a dozen one-day parklets installed in Oakland.

The parklets will be publicly accessible space for the enjoyment and use of all Oakland citizens in the public right-of-way, but will be privately constructed and maintained. It is envisioned that the parklets will be located in areas with heavy pedestrian activity to create additional seating for retail patrons and also in areas where there is a desire to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment. Parklets can feature tables, chairs and benches for public use, planters and other landscaping features and bicycle parking.

Respondents to the NPA will most likely include Business Improvement Districts, storefront business owners and non-profit and community-based organizations. Other applicants may be considered on a case-by-case basis. As part of the proposal submission, applicants must demonstrate community support for their proposed parklet locations. Other evaluation criteria for proposals will include site suitability and quality of parklet design including aesthetics and quality of materials and street furniture.

The NPA is the result of six months of research and refinement by staff in the Community and Economic Development Agency. The Parklet Pilot Program will allow for further program refinement, if necessary. Each parklet will be permitted for one year with possible renewal for up to two additional years. While new to Oakland, parklets have been successful in San Francisco, New York City and other world-class urban centers around the globe.

Specific design and placement guidelines will ensure safety while not impacting the street’s vehicular traffic flow, the area’s total quantity of parking spaces and parking revenue for the City of Oakland. Pre- and post-installation surveys will be conducted by partner organization Walk Oakland Bike Oakland to assess the community impacts of the parklets.

Among other requirements, parklet permit holders will be required to carry liability insurance, provide daily maintenance and coordinate with the Public Works Agency’s street sweeping program.

For complete details on the Parklet Pilot Program and to view and download the NPA, visit oaklandnet.com/parklets.

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